

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Unison Historic District  
other names/site number VDHR # 53-692

**2. Location**

street & number Area including parts of Unison and Bloomfield roads not for publication N/A  
city or town Middleburg vicinity X  
state Virginia code VA county Loudoun code 107 Zip 20017

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official                      Date  
**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

<u>    </u> entered in the National Register	Date of Action
<u>    </u> See continuation sheet.	
<u>    </u> determined eligible for the National Register	
<u>    </u> See continuation sheet.	
<u>    </u> determined not eligible for the National Register	
<u>    </u> removed from the National Register	
<u>    </u> other (explain): <u>                    </u>	

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper



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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions) **SEE CONTINUATION SHEET**foundation 

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roof 

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walls 

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other 

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**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)ARCHITECTURE

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**Period of Significance** 1802-1952

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Significant Dates \_ca. 1802\_\_\_\_\_  
                          \_1813\_\_\_\_\_  
                          \_\_\_\_\_  
                          \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_N/A\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_N/A\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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#### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS)

\_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

\_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register

\_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register

\_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark

\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

\_\_\_ Other State agency

\_\_\_ Federal agency

\_\_\_ Local government

\_\_\_ University

\_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property \_\_\_ approximately 70 acres\_\_\_\_\_

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

☒ See continuation sheet.

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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National Park Service

Unison Historic District  
Loudoun County, Virginia

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Maral S. Kalbian/ Architectural Historian and Leila O. W. Boyer/Research Historian

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ date July 20, 2002

street & number: 2026 Old Chapel Road telephone 540-837-2081

city or town Boyce state VA zip code 22620

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name See Attached Property Owners List

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**6. HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:**

DOMESTIC

Single dwelling

Secondary structure

COMMERCE/TRADE

Specialty Store

EDUCATION

School

RELIGION

Religious facility

AGRICULTURE

Agricultural outbuilding

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:**

DOMESTIC

Single dwelling

Secondary structure

COMMERCE/TRADE

Specialty Store

RELIGION

Religious facility

AGRICULTURE

Agricultural outbuilding

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

**Architectural Classification:**

EARLY REPUBLIC  
Federal

MID-19<sup>TH</sup>-CENTURY  
Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN  
Italianate  
Queen Anne

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS  
Bungalow/Craftsman

OTHER  
I-house

**Materials:**

FOUNDATION  
Stone: limestone

WALLS  
BRICK  
STONE  
Wood: weatherboard  
STUCCO

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ROOF

Metal: tin  
Slate  
Asphalt

OTHER

Wood  
Brick

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:**

The Unison Historic District is located in the village of Unison, in a rural area of southwest Loudoun County, Virginia. The village is centered on a dogleg crossroads and contains approximately twenty properties that front along Unison and Bloomfield Roads. The majority of resources are dwellings and their associated outbuildings and are generally sited right along the road, with the exception of the more rural properties located at the west and east ends of the village. The linear district contains a collection of building types and architectural styles that tell the story of the village's development from the early nineteenth century to modern times.

The town was officially named Union when it was established in 1813, although it had been referred to as Greenville and Butterland in 1802 deeds. It underwent yet another name change in 1829, when it became known as Unison. This change occurred because another town in Virginia named Union had been established earlier and therefore had precedence when the postal system did away with duplicate town names.

Although Unison has no official limits and was established by the General Assembly in 1813 containing 20 acres, it now generally encompasses a much larger area that takes in properties in the surrounding rural landscape. The approximately 70 acres that are included in the district are ones that are historically and visually associated with Unison. More remote rural areas and ones with concentrations of non-contributing resources were not included in the boundaries of the district.

Unison's layout is not based on a formal grid pattern, but instead is dictated by roads, property lines, and landscape features. A comparison of the current configuration of the village with depictions of the village on mid-nineteenth-century maps shows that Unison has remained fairly

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unchanged since that time.



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Although there was settlement and religious activity in the area during the eighteenth century, it was not until after 1802 that most of the buildings in Unison were constructed. The architectural and documentary evidence suggests that the earliest resources in the district appear to date to the early nineteenth century, although some buildings may have original cores that could date to the late eighteenth century. Not officially established by the General Assembly until 1813, the village contained a portion that had been surveyed out into ten ½-acre lots a year earlier. The period of greatest development in the village occurred shortly after its establishment and continued until the Civil War. During that time, houses were built along with commercial, religious, and transportation-related resources.

For the period of its greatest activity, Unison served the surrounding rural area as a commercial, religious, and social center. While its location miles away from major highways and railroad lines curbed its growth during the latter half of the nineteenth century, these same influences later helped to preserve it.

The 44 contributing resources in the district are made up primarily of residences and their associated domestic and farm-related outbuildings. Some of the other contributing resources include a church, former school, store, and saddle-maker's shop. Archaeological resources are not included in this nomination. The 13 noncontributing elements in the district are primarily outbuildings.

**ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS**

Unison is a small rural community that lies approximately midway between US Routes 7 and 50 in southwest Loudoun County, Virginia. It was originally part of Thomas Lord Fairfax's Northern Neck Proprietary until 1741 when Major Richard Blackburn was issued a grant by Fairfax for 2,628 acres.<sup>1</sup> It does not appear that Blackburn ever lived on the property and he may have rented portions of it to Quakers, who lived on surrounding tracts. Quakers in fact established the South Fork Meeting House and surrounding cemetery in 1746 on land that had been part of Blackburn's original grant. This 10-acre tract is outside the Unison Historic District boundaries and is located about one mile to the southwest.

After Blackburn's death the land passed to his son Thomas, who in turn gave parcels to each of  
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his two daughters and in 1785 sold 2,328 acres to Spence Grayson. The land on which Unison is located was part of the parcel Thomas Blackburn deeded to his daughter Sarah and her husband

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Nathaniel Crawford. In 1802, Sarah and Nathaniel Crawford sold 120 acres to William Galliher (also spelled Galleher, Galligher). Ten years later, Galliher subdivided 5 acres of that purchase into ten ½-acre lots which he devised to his children and grandchildren. He described the gifts as being “in the Town or at the place called Greenville.”<sup>2</sup> These 5 acres comprised the core of what would become Union the following year by an Act of the General Assembly. That act added 15 acres to Galliher’s original “Greenville” and called for the laying out of “twenty acres of land, at the village called and known by the name of Union.”<sup>3</sup> Lots and streets were to be laid out and minimum building requirements included a “dwelling house thereon equal to twelve feet square with a brick or stone chimney.”<sup>4</sup>

The architectural resources in the Unison Historic District illustrate the story of the community’s development. According to architectural evidence, six properties date to the first three decades of the nineteenth century, and five from the 1830-1865 period. Five resources survive from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including a school and store. One dwelling in the district dates from the World War I to 1952 period and two modern dwellings were constructed after 1952.

The majority of the resources are of the vernacular tradition, yet there are also some examples of buildings exhibiting elements of the Federal and Greek Revival styles. Log, brick, stone and frame are the most common construction materials and are sometimes used in combination with each other. A distinctive element of many of the earliest historic buildings in Unison is that they feature two front entrances, suggesting that part of the structure was used as a dwelling and part for commercial purposes.

Although several of the buildings in the district are generally believed to have been constructed while the land was still in the possession of Sarah and Nathaniel Crawford, court records indicate that when they sold the property in 1802, they were living in Prince Georges County, Maryland.<sup>5</sup> In all probability, the earliest buildings in the district were constructed at or around the time of Galliher’s 1802 purchase of the land.

When William Galliher distributed half-acre lots to his children in 1812, he referred to the land as being “in the town of Greenville.” The plat showing the location of each of the lots has not been discovered but deed descriptions suggest that at least the east end of current Unison was

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within the area he gifted. Two of the earliest dwellings in Unison, Butterland and Elton, are located at the east end of the village and are probably the earliest of the Galliher homes.

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Butterland (**Photo 1**) is a two-story stone dwelling that was constructed in at least three phases, the earliest of which is the large two-story, three-bay central portion with a semi-exterior-end chimney on one end and an interior-end chimney on the other. Although the original central door has been enclosed into a window and the interior partition wall removed, it appears that this section of the house dates to the early nineteenth century. In all probability it was the home of William Galliher's son William Jr. The side, two-bay, two-story wing with exterior-end stone chimney was added shortly after and currently features a one-bay pedimented portico and stucco scored to look like ashlar. When this section was built, the house would have had two front doors, perhaps indicating another use for the side wing.

Butterland sits right off the road and during the late nineteenth century was the home of Dr. Hoge, a well-known local physician. Historic photographs show that his office once sat right along the road (**Photo 2**). It was moved to its current location in the southeast rear yard in the twentieth century. The historic photo also shows later additions made to the rear wing of the house.

Elton is located on the northeast end of town and sits on a larger tract than Butterland (**Photo 3**). The rear portion of the brick with stucco house is the oldest and has a side-passage-plan with the front facing Unison Road. The architectural evidence, composed of fine Federal-style interior woodwork, suggests a construction date of ca. 1802. The front section, also of brick, was added around 1845 by Theodoric Leith, and oriented the house at a right angle to the road. Leith was a physician and also served as Unison postmaster from 1835 to 1844. The 1853 Yardley Taylor map of Loudoun County, designates "T. Leith" as being the owner/occupant of Elton. Leith also owned and purchased adjacent lands, thereby increasing the property's acreage.

Another early dwelling is the Thornton Walker House, located across Unison Road from Butterland (**Photo 4**). Walker, once a postmaster of Unison, purchased the lot in 1814 from Caleb Galliher, who had received it from his father two years earlier. In the deed from William to Caleb, the property is described as ½ an acre and was designated as lot 7. Thornton Walker probably built the house shortly after he purchased it in 1814.<sup>6</sup> Loudoun County tax records of 1820 show that Walker's house was appraised at \$1,400, one of the most valuable properties in the village. The house consists of four distinct units: a two-story brick section, a two-story log  
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section, a one-story frame wing, and a rear 1½-story log wing. The rear and front log portions are the oldest parts of the house. The brick section, laid in 5-course American bond, was built onto the west end of the front log section in the mid-nineteenth century. The house is another example of a dwelling in Unison that originally had two front entrances: one in the log section

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and one in the brick section. Since Thornton Walker was the village's postmaster, it seems quite likely that he devoted a portion of his house to a post office.

A concentration of buildings from the early nineteenth century, including a church and four dwellings, also exists toward the west end of the village. The oldest of these appears to be the Mary Phillips House, a 1 ½-story stone (stucco) building with later additions (**Photo 5**). The house originally had an exterior-end stone chimney that was later replaced with the current semi-exterior-end brick one. The original three-room plan was changed to a hall parlor plan when an interior partition was removed. The woodwork, including double-architrave trim framing six-panel doors and chair rail with a pattern of alternating reeding and X motifs, is fairly sophisticated for such a small and unpretentious dwelling (**Photo 6**).

The small frame building next to the house is generally believed to have once been a blacksmith's shop (**Photo 7**). This is well supported by the fact that Henry Saffel owned the property in 1894 and was listed in a state gazetteer as a coach and wagon builder.<sup>7</sup>

The Henry Evans House, located along Unison Road west of the Mary Phillips House, is a fine example of a Federal-style brick dwelling (**Photo 8**). Although the three-bay, two-story building is now covered in stucco, the brick mousetooth cornice is still highly visible. According to a 1982 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey Form completed before the house was covered, the walls were laid in Flemish-bond brick on the front and 5-course American bond on the sides. It is believed that Henry Evans constructed this house shortly after he acquired the lot from Samuel Dunkin in 1815.

A ca. 1900 photograph of the house shows it once had a late-nineteenth-century, two-story frame store attached to its east end (**Photo 9**). This was one of two stores operating in Unison during the last decades of the nineteenth century and was owned and operated by Thomas A. Baker.

Glatton Folly is located at the northwest corner of the junction of Unison and Bloomfield Roads (**Photo 10**). The ca. 1820, two-and-one-half-story, frame dwelling features two exterior-end brick chimneys on the west end, and a full-height two-story portico on the east gable end. This portico,

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with a barrel vault and gable-end returns, is supported by rectangular tapered supports on paneled plinths and shelters a second-story balcony that is supported by brackets with pendants. Doors on each level lead out to either the balcony or the first-floor deck of the portico. It appears that this house was remodeled (new siding, windows, porches) sometime in the late nineteenth

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century to reflect more Victorian-era designs. Because of its location, it is one of the most visually prominent buildings in town. During the early twentieth century, it was the home of H. W. Saffel, who ran the Unison Store next door.

The Langcor House, located west of Glatton Folly, is composed of a two-story, five-bay frame dwelling with two front entrances and a diminutive side two-story exposed log wing (**Photo 11**). It is uncertain which section is earlier, but it appears that the two parts of the house were constructed fairly close in date to each other during the first half of the nineteenth century. Perhaps the exposed log section was used for non-residential purposes. The same year that Charles Osbourne purchased the property at public auction in 1904, he was named postmaster of Unison. Osbourne, a saddler, may have been enticed by the newspaper advertisement that offered the lot of about 3/4 of an acre and “a good Frame House containing eleven rooms with garret and cellar, good frame stable and carriage house, hen house, a filtered cemented cistern and other outbuildings. There are also a lot of fruit trees on the premises in good bearing condition.”<sup>8</sup>

In 1829 the village name was officially changed from Union to Unison. Despite this action by the postal service, the village continued to be called Union well into the twentieth century. Around 1832, the Old Bethesda Meeting House, a log Methodist church reputedly constructed in 1786, was superseded by a much larger brick structure now called Unison United Methodist Church (**Photo 12**). The two-story, three-bay building has brick walls laid in Flemish bond on the front and 5-course American bond on the sides and rear and is the only church in Unison. The vernacular Greek Revival-style church features a gable-end orientation with central double-leaf doors on the first-floor façade and three bays of 12/8-sash windows on the second floor. The façade originally had two front doors flanking a central window, but these have been enclosed.

This locally prominent building is believed to have served as a hospital during the Civil War. Before the interior was repainted in 1953, inscriptions scratched into the walls by Federal soldiers were visible. To the rear of the church, attached by a gable-roofed hyphen, is a one-story ca. 1950 addition housing a social hall and Sunday school classrooms.

In Joseph Martin's 1835 *New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia* description of “Union,”  
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the village contained twenty-five dwellings, three churches, one school, two stores, and one tavern.<sup>9</sup> Only eight structures that were part of his description survive in the district. Martin's sketch captured Unison during its peak of greatest activity, as it served the surrounding rural area as a commercial, religious, and social center. It continued to be a locally important focal point

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until the Civil War period. When Unison was depicted on Yardley Taylor's 1853 map of Loudoun County, it was shown as a dog leg crossroads, with thirteen structures including the Methodist Meeting House. Taylor's map also shows other similar rural communities including Bloomfield, also on a dog leg, and Philomont.

Four dwellings in the district date from the mid-nineteenth-century period. The Mildred Shackelford House, located along Unison Road next to Butterland, is a two-story, six-bay, Federal-style brick dwelling composed of two three-bay sections each with its own central door flanked by a window (**Photo 13**). The brick is laid in 5-course American bond and an obvious seam between the sections indicates two distinct construction periods. It appears that the left section may have been built a few years earlier than the one on the right. One of four buildings in the district with two front entrances, the house may have had a partial commercial use.

Although located on the far west end of the village and rural in nature, Bonnycastle visually delineates the westernmost boundaries of Unison and the historic district (**Photo 14**). The two-story, five-bay, random-rubble stone, Greek Revival-style dwelling features paired semi-exterior-end stone chimneys on each gable end and a raised stone basement. The house, constructed by John Keene, was originally plastered on the exterior and scored to resemble finished stone blocks. The house also originally had a very shallow-pitched gable roof, typical of the Greek Revival style, which was raised in the 1990s to a more standard pitch. The front of the house is dominated by a two-story, full-height, three-bay portico with giant Tuscan columns, broad pilasters, and a modillioned cornice. A small balustrated balcony supported by consoles projects from the second floor under the portico.

The Loudoun County Land Tax records indicate the house was completed in 1855, as it was first assessed the following year for a value of \$4,000. The house appears on the 1853 Yardley Taylor Map and is identified as belonging to "J. Keene," perhaps indicating it was under construction at that time.

The property also features a nice collection of late-nineteenth-century and early-twentieth-century farm outbuildings including a board-and-batten bank barn on a stone foundation, a shed-roofed

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cornercrib, a ca. 1910 terra-cotta tile silo with metal roof, and two early-twentieth-century frame sheds (**Photo 15**).

The two other resources from this period are dwellings in which their original cores have been

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enlarged during the later nineteenth century to create I-houses (2-story, single-pile, center-passage plan). In the case of the Ballenger House, the main block is a two-story, frame, ca. 1880 I-house that features 2/2-sash windows, a three-bay porch with square posts and sawn brackets, and a central-front gable decorated with a sawn vergeboard and diamond-shaped attic vent window (**Photo 16**). To the side is a two-story frame wing with an interior-end brick chimney and to its rear is a diminutive one-and-one-half-story stuccoed wing that may be of masonry construction. It is this rear wing that appears to be the original mid-nineteenth-century section.

The property, which is identified on the 1853 Yardley Taylor Map as belonging to “H. Plaster,” marks the southeast boundary of the district and contains an almost complete collection of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century outbuildings. The most interesting is the meat house in which the first floor is of stone construction and the second floor is frame clad in board-and-batten (**Photo 17**). Other outbuildings include a garage, corncrib, chicken coop, and fine bank barn and terra-cotta silo (**Photo 18**). These are similar to the ones found at Bonnycastle and may have been constructed by the same builder.

One other dwelling located on the western end of town is also an example of an older house that was later converted into an I-house. From the front, the house appears to be a fairly typical example of a late-nineteenth-century I-house with Folk Victorian detailing. But in fact it appears to be an earlier house that was added onto to achieve its current appearance, as is evidenced by the large exterior-end stone chimney on the west gable end (**Photo 19**).

The Civil War did not bring much devastation to the built environment of Unison, as there are no documented accounts of mass destruction. Instead, the impact was economic, as it was throughout the region. It was not until the late 1870s and early 1880s that economic stability returned to the area and allowed for new construction. Unison did experience a resurgence of sorts during the late nineteenth century, as a public school was built as well as several stores. However, it never again reached the local significance it enjoyed earlier in the century.

The Unison Historic District contains five resources from the Reconstruction to World War I era. These include a school, store, saddler’s shop, and three dwellings. Also during this period,

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several of the older buildings in the village were updated or enlarged to reflect more popular Victorian architectural styles.

Martin’s 1835 *New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia* indicated that at that time Unison had one “common” school, although its exact location is unknown. After the adoption of the

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Underwood Constitution of 1870 which mandated public education in Virginia, Unison built its first public school. According to deeds, it was originally located on the southwest corner of the Methodist Episcopal Church South lot. The current building in that general location is the old Unison School (**Photo 20**). Architecturally, the front portion appears to date to the 1890 period, although the rear section could be the 1870 portion. The building has undergone quite a bit of modern renovation and features 1/1-sash windows, a formed and parged concrete foundation, overhanging eaves, a plain frieze board, and an enclosed three-bay hip-roofed front porch. The school closed around 1915 and was then converted into a dwelling.

Prominently located at the junction of Unison and Bloomfield Roads, the Unison Store is the only surviving late-nineteenth-century store in the district and is a fine example of commercial architecture from that era (**Photo 21**). Constructed ca. 1880 by Lycergus E. Hutchison, the two-story, three-bay, gable-end frame store rests on a stone foundation. To the side is a one-bay, two-story frame addition with parapet. A four-bay porch with square posts and sawn brackets extends across the front of the entire store uniting the two sections. The building, which operated as a country store until the mid-1990s, is currently vacant and awaiting rehabilitation. The store gained local notoriety when it was the site of a 1937 robbery/murder of its 83-year-old owner, Henry Saffel.

The late-nineteenth-century building across the road from the store, locally known as Uncle Tom's Cabin, once housed the post office and Charles Osbourne's saddle shop. The one-story building has been so highly altered it lacks all architectural integrity and is considered a noncontributing element to the district.

Log was still being used as a construction material even after the Civil War. This is illustrated in the small one-and-one-half-story dwelling at 21070 Unison Road (**Photo 22**). Although the building has been stuccoed and added to considerably, it retains a fair amount of architectural integrity.

By the turn of the century, Unison was once again a thriving rural crossroads. According to the **Section \_\_7\_\_ Page \_\_12\_\_**

1893-94 *Chataigne's Virginia Gazetteer*, Unison had three stores, two hotels, two saddlers and harnessmakers, one physician, one wagon builder, one carpenter/builder, one saw mill, and one manufacturer of agricultural implements.<sup>10</sup> By 1908, the population had dropped to 100 persons compared to its zenith of 135 during the mid-nineteenth century.

The decline in population and economic activity that began at the turn of the century is reflected



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in the lack of new construction from that era. The two-story, frame I-house located next to Unison Store appears to have been constructed around 1910. The district's only building on Bloomfield Road, the Bishop House, was constructed in 1929 and reflects elements of the Craftsman style (**Photo 23**). The one-story, three-bay, gable-end, stuccoed frame bungalow has exposed rafter ends and overhanging eaves and features a stone and frame garage.

A January 4, 1955, photograph of Unison shows how little the community has changed since that time (**Photo 24**). The majority of buildings shown in the view of Unison Road, taken from the side yard of Butterland looking west, still survive. Remnants of what appear to be a wooden sidewalk along the south side of the road have since been removed.

The historic resources that make up the Unison Historic District illustrate the growth and development of the community from the early nineteenth century to modern times. Of the 57 resources in the district, 44 are contributing. The non-contributing elements are mainly outbuildings and a few modern dwellings that do not detract from the historical character of the district.

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ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Northern Neck Grants E, 1736-42, p.134.

<sup>2</sup> Loudoun County Deed Book 2P:174.

<sup>3</sup> Acts of the Virginia Assembly, 1812-1813, chapter 69, p.98.

<sup>4</sup> Acts of the Virginia Assembly, 1812-1813, chapter 69, p.98.

<sup>5</sup> Loudoun County Deed Book 2C:187.

<sup>6</sup> Loudoun County Deed Book 2R:208.

<sup>7</sup> *Chataigne's Virginia Gazetteer 1893-94*. Richmond, VA: 764.

<sup>8</sup> *The Record*, Leesburg, Virginia. 25 March 1904.

<sup>9</sup> Martin, Joseph. *A New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia*. Charlottesville, VA: Joseph Martin, 1835: 215-216.

<sup>10</sup> *Chataigne's 1893-94 Virginia Gazetteer and Classified Business Directory*. Richmond: J. H. Chataigne, 1894.

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UNISON HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

NOTES ON FORMAT AND ORGANIZATION OF INVENTORY:

The roads in the historic district are listed in the inventory in alphabetical order, and the properties are listed numerically by street address. All buildings and sites are contributing unless indicated (NC) for noncontributing, and are keyed to the map in regular order.

Bloomfield Road

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**35121 Bloomfield Road; Bishop House (53-692-1):** ca. 1929; 1-story, 3-bay, frame (stucco and false beveled siding), gable-end (standing-seam metal) vernacular bungalow on parged stone foundation. Details include 6/6 windows, a 2-bay front porch with square posts and plain pickets, 2 interior concrete block flues, exposed rafter ends, and a rectangular attic vent in front gable end.

Garage: ca. 1929; 1-story, frame (German-lap siding), gable-end (standing-seam metal), 1-bay garage with a raised stone foundation.

Workshop: mid-20<sup>th</sup> century; 1-story, 1-bay, gable-end (v-crimp metal), frame (German-lap siding) workshop with multi-light windows and exterior-end concrete block and brick flue.

**Unison Road**

**20980 Unison Road; Ballenger House (53-692-16):** ca. 1850; 1880; Two-story, frame (vinyl) I-house is the main block of this dwelling and appears to have been constructed during the late nineteenth century. This section features a gable roof with center front gable decorated with a sawn vergeboard and a diamond-shaped attic vent window. Other details include 2/2 windows (one with a segmentally-arched frame), a stone foundation, 2 interior brick chimneys, sidelights and transom around front door, and 3-bay porch with square posts and sawn brackets. To the side is a 2-story frame wing also clad in vinyl with an interior end brick chimneys and 2/2 windows. To its rear is a diminutive 1 ½-story stuccoed wing that may be of masonry construction. This may be an earlier mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century section.

Meat house: ca. 1880; 2-story, 1-bay, gable-end (corrugated metal) meat house where first floor is of stone construction and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is frame clad in board-and-batten.

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Garage: ca. 1920; 1-bay, gable-end (corrugated metal), frame (vertical wood siding) garage with 5-bay, shed-roofed machine shed rear wing. Off of that is a gable-roofed stable with vertical wood siding.

Corncrib: ca. 1920; central-aisle corncrib on concrete block piers with vertical wood slat siding, gable roof of standing-seam metal and side lean-to.

Barn: mid-to late 19<sup>th</sup> century; 2 ½-story, heavy-timber frame (hand-hewn) bank barn on stone foundation with vertical wood siding and standing-seam metal gable roof, and side wing.

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Silo: ca. 1910 terra cotta silo with standing-seam metal roof.

Chicken coop: ca. 1910, 2-bay, shed-roofed with vertical wood siding.

Shed: modern; 2-bay turnout shed of pole construction (NC).

**20985 Unison Road; Elton (53-692-17; 53-134):** ca. 1802, ca. 1845; Two-story brick and stucco dwelling with a stone foundation. The rear 2-story wing is the earliest ca. 1802 portion and contains an interior-end brick chimney and 6/6-sash windows. The current front, gable-roofed, 3-bay section is also of brick construction (stuccoed) and was added ca. 1845. The original section of the house was probably constructed ca. 1802 and the front section by Theodoric Leith ca. 1845.

Meat house: late 19<sup>th</sup> century; gable-end end (standing-seam metal), frame (stucco); split-level stone foundation with entry on rear; basement used to store dairy products.

Corncrib: late 19<sup>th</sup> century, frame (vertical wood siding) gable-roofed (standing-seam metal) corncrib with open central bay.

Barn: late 19<sup>th</sup> century; 2-story, frame (vertical siding), gable-roofed (standing-seam metal) barn on stone foundation with cross-gable-roofed side wing addition.

Silo: ca. 1930; concrete silo with hemispherical metal top.

**21028 Unison Road; Butterland (53-692-15):** ca. 1802, 1850, 1950. This 2-story stone  
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dwelling was constructed in at least three phases. The earliest ca. 1802 portion is the large 2-story, 3-bay central section with a semi-exterior-end chimney on one end and an interior-end chimney on the other. It originally had a central door which has since been enclosed into a window. The side, 2-bay, 2-story wing with exterior-end stone chimney was added shortly after and currently features a 1-bay pedimented portico and stucco scored to look like ashlar. The rear 2-story wing was added ca. 1850 and the enclosed porch and kitchen added in the 1950s. The plaster has been removed on the back of the house exposing the natural stone. Details include 2/2 windows, 6/6 windows, gable-end returns, and overhanging eaves.

Office: late 19<sup>th</sup> century; 1-story, gable-roofed (standing-seam metal), frame (weatherboard)

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office building that originally sat along road and was moved to this location. It was the office for Dr. Hoge, who owned the property during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Barn: mid-to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, hand-hewn timber-frame (board and batten), gable-end (standing-seam metal) barn with side lean-tos, one of which was originally a corncrib.

Garage: late 19<sup>th</sup> century; frame (board and batten), gable-roofed meat house that was enlarged and converted into a garage in the 1950s.

Chicken coop: ca. 1900; 1-story, 2-bay, frame (board and batten), gable-roofed chicken coop.

Pool and pool house: ca. 1987; frame (board and batten), gable-roofed pool house and adjoining modern in-ground pool (2 NC).

**21035 Unison Road; Thornton Walker House (53-692-18; 53-130):** ca. 1815, ca. 1850; This house consists of four distinct units: a 2-story, 3-bay, brick section (5-course American bond) with an interior-end brick chimney; a 2-story, 2-bay, log section with beaded ship lap siding and an interior end brick chimney; a 1-bay, 1-story, shed-roofed frame wing clad in German-lap siding; and a 1 ½-story, 2-bay, gable-roofed log wing with an exterior-end stone chimney with brick stack. It appears the rear 1-story log section was originally a separate building and was later attached to the front portions. The log section on the front originally had a central door that has since been enclosed.

Barn: late 19<sup>th</sup> century; frame (board-and-batten), gable-roofed (corrugated metal); 3-bay barn.

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Shed: late 19<sup>th</sup> century; frame (board-and-batten); gable-end (standing-seam metal) shed with batten door and 6-light window.

**21058 Unison Road; Mildred Shackelford House (53-692-14; 53-448):** ca. 1850, ca. 1985. The front of this 2-story, 6-bay dwelling is the original ca. 1850 portion. It is composed of two three-bay sections each with its own central door flanked by a window. The brick is laid in 5-course American bond and details include interior-end brick chimneys with corbelled caps, 6/6-sash windows, paneled shutters and jack arches over the openings. An obvious seam between the two sections perhaps indicates 2 distinct construction periods. It appears that the left section may have been built earlier. To the rear is a very large modern wing with a ridge line that is taller than that of the front of the house.

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**21070 Unison Road (53-692-13):** ca. 1880; 1 ½-story; 2-bay, gable-end (standing-seam metal), log (stucco), vernacular dwelling that is sited at a right angle to the road. Details include 6/6 windows on first floor, 6-light frieze windows in ½ story, batten shutters, 2 bays deep along road; pedimented 1-bay entrance stoop with modern wrought-iron supports, and an exterior-end stone chimney on the end on the side/rear lean-to. Additions include the new siding, a shed-roofed wing on the front and a rear gable-roofed wing with exterior-end concrete block (parged) chimney.

Shed: ca. 1950; 1-bay, shed-roofed shed clad in corrugated metal.

**21075 Unison Road (53-692-19):** ca. 1910; 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed (standing-seam metal), frame (German-lap siding) I-house with gable-end returns, stone foundation, 6/6 windows, modern 1-bay pedimented portico, and rear 2-story ell with enclosed side porches.

**21081 Unison Road; Unison General Store (53-692-20; 53-449):** ca. 1880; 2-story, 3-bay, gable-end (standing-seam metal), frame (German lap on front and stucco on sides and rear) store on stone foundation with 6/6 and 2/2 windows, and central flue. To the side is a 1-bay, 2-story frame addition with parapet. A 4-bay porch with square posts and sawn brackets extends across the front of the entire store uniting the two sections. Along the side is a modern staircase leading to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor door on the front of the building, providing access to the upstairs apartment. The building is currently vacant and awaiting rehabilitation. It operated as a country store until the 1990s.

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**21088 Unison Road; Uncle Tom's Cabin (53-692-12; 53-128):** ca. 1880 with modern additions and alterations; 1-story, 3-bay, gable-end (asphalt shingle); frame (vinyl siding) vernacular dwelling that has been so highly altered it lacks all architectural integrity. Details include 1/1 vinyl windows, triangular attic vent; gable-roofed hood supported by brackets; and large rear cross-gable-roofed wing. This building once housed the post office and Osbourne's saddle shop (NC).

Garage: Modern; extremely large, gable-end concrete block garage (NC).

**21091 Unison Road; Glatton Folly (53-692-2):** ca. 1820 with later alterations; 2 ½-story, 3-bay, frame (German lap siding), gable-roofed (standing-seam metal), vernacular dwelling on stone foundation with two front gable-roofed dormers, 2 exterior-end brick chimneys on west

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end, 3-bay front porch with scroll brackets (one bay enclosed with paired 2/2 windows), and double-hung 2/2-sash windows with louvered wooden shutters. Other details include gable-end returns, a plain frieze board, corner boards, a transom over the front door, and a full-height 2-story portico on the gable end. This portico, with a barrel vault and gable-end returns, is supported by rectangular tapered supports on paneled plinths and shelters a 2nd-story balcony that is supported by brackets with pendants. Doors on each level lead out to either the balcony or the first-floor deck of the portico. It appears that this house was remodeled (new siding, windows, porches) sometime in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to reflect more Victorian-era designs. Later additions include a rear/side 1-story shed-roofed wing.

Shed: ca. 1900; 2-bay, gable-roofed shed clad in German-lap siding.

Garage: ca. 1940; 1-bay, gable-roofed (v-crimp metal), frame garage with German-lap siding.

**21092 Unison Road (53-692-11):** ca. 1971; 1-story, 4-bay, Minimal Ranch with bowed bay window, 1/1 windows, Masonite siding and asphalt shingle gable roof (NC).

**21097 Unison Road; Langcor House (53-692-3):** ca. 1830 with later additions; 2-story, gable-roofed dwelling composed of a 5-bay frame section clad in stucco with a gable roof of standing-seam metal, 2 interior-end brick flues, gable-end returns, two front doors, 2/2 windows, and a modern 3-bay front porch with square posts. To the east is a diminutive, 3-bay, log wing with interior-end brick flue, 6/6 windows, a central door flanked by 1-story projecting rectangular bay windows, and a rear shed-roofed wing. It is uncertain which section is earlier, but it appears that

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the two parts of the house were constructed fairly close to each other sometime during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Perhaps the exposed log section was used for commercial purposes. Both sections have undergone a fair amount of alteration. This was the home of Charles Osbourne, a postmaster and saddlemaker.

**21103 Unison Road; Mary Phillips House (53-692-4; 53-1051):** ca. 1810 with later additions; 1 ½-story, stone (stuccoed), gable-roofed (standing-seam metal) dwelling with 2 front gable-roofed dormers. The house originally had an exterior-end stone chimney that was later replaced with the current semi-exterior-end brick one. Details include 6/6 windows, a 1-bay pedimented portico with square posts and a 2-rail balustrade, and a 6-panel front door. The house was originally a 3-room plan but an interior partition was removed creating a hall-parlor plan. The woodwork, including double-architrave trim framing 6-panel doors and chair rail with a pattern of alternating reeding and X motifs, is fairly sophisticated for such a small and unpretentious

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dwelling. A shed-roofed rear brick wing (stuccoed) appears to date to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, while the exterior-end stone chimney on its west side is modern. The large 2-story rear wing with semi-exterior-end chimney is also a modern addition.

Blacksmith Shop: late-19<sup>th</sup>-century; 1-story, frame (board and batten), gable-roofed (standing-seam metal) blacksmith shop with interior-end brick flue, attached to rear chicken coop, and modern (ca. 1990) rear wing. The building has been converted into an artist's studio used to make tile.

Shed: early-20<sup>th</sup>-century; 1-story, shed-roofed (v-crimp metal) shed with board-and-batten siding. This building was moved here in the 1980s.

Studio: ca. 1975; 1-story, 3-bay studio with standing-seam metal roof, vertical wood siding and 6-light windows (NC).

**21111 Unison Road; Henry Evans House (53-692-5; 53-105):** ca. 1815; 2-story, 3-bay, brick (stucco), gable-roofed Federal-style dwelling with 6/6 windows, mousetooth cornice, and 2 interior-end chimneys. Details include modern vinyl shutters, asphalt shingle roofing, and 1-bay pedimented portico with modern square supports. To the rear is a 1-story shed-roofed modern wing. According to an architectural survey conducted in 1982 by David Edwards, this building was not covered in stucco at that time and had exposed Flemish bond on the front and 5-course American bond on the sides and rear, and flared brick jack arches. The survey form also says that  
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a late-19<sup>th</sup>-century frame store was originally attached to the house but was later destroyed. According to deed research conducted as part of the 1982 survey, this lot was purchased by Henry Evans in 1815 from Samuel Dunkin. It is presumed that Evans constructed the house shortly after acquiring the property.

**21131 Unison Road (53-692-6):** ca. 1850 with later additions, 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed (asphalt shingle), frame (Masonite siding) dwelling with an exterior-end stone (parged with brick stack) chimney on the west end. Architectural details include stone foundation, 2/2 windows, overhanging eaves, central-front gable with pointed-arched attic windows and decorative vergeboard, central door with 2-light transom; exterior-end brick flue on east side; and rear 2-story ell with enclosed side porches and projecting 2-story polygonal bay on west side. The front of the house is dominated by a 3-bay 2-story porch with turned spindles and sawn balustrade and brackets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and plain square posts on the first floor. Because of the exterior-end chimney on the west end, it appears that the house may have begun as a smaller dwelling that

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was later enlarged into its current I-house configuration during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**21142 Unison Road; Unison United Methodist Church (53-692-7; 53-129):** ca. 1832 with ca. 1950 rear addition; 2-story, 3-bay, brick (Flemish-bond on front and 5-course American-bond on sides and rear), gable-end (standing-seam metal) church with central double-leaf doors on first-floor façade and 3 bays of 12/8-sash windows on the second-floor façade. It appears that the first floor originally had 2 doors flanking a central window, but these have been bricked in and replaced with the current central entry. Other details on this vernacular Greek Revival-style church include 12/12-sash windows on first floor; louvered wooden shutters, gable-end returns, lunette with starburst motif panel; and cupola with sawtooth wood shingle siding and open belfry. To the rear of the church, attached by a gable-roofed hyphen, is a 1-story ca. 1950 addition housing a social hall and Sunday school classrooms.

Shed: Modern; shed-roofed, concrete block shed (NC).

**21148 Unison Road; Methodist Church Parsonage (53-692-8):** 1955; 1 ½-story, 6-bay, brick, gable-roofed vernacular Cape Cod-type dwelling with 4 front gable-roofed dormers, 6/6 windows; wooden shutters, scalloped vergeboard, and interior-end brick chimney (NC).

**21164 Unison Road; Summergreen Farm; Unison School (53-692-9):** ca. 1890; 2-story, frame (Masonite), cross-gable-roofed (standing-seam metal) building that was constructed as the  
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Unison school. It features 1/1 windows, a formed and parged concrete foundation, overhanging eaves, a plain frieze board, an enclosed 3-bay hip-roofed front porch, and rear 5-bay porch. The school closed around 1915 and was then converted into a dwelling.

Shed: Modern; 1-story, gable-end shed with T-1-11 siding and a corrugated metal roof (NC).

Shed: Modern; 1-story, 3-bay shed with Masonite siding, and gable roof of asphalt shingle (NC).

**21223 Unison Road; Bonnycastle (53-692-10; 53-126):** ca. 1855; 2-story, 5-bay, stone (random rubble) Greek Revival-style dwelling with paired semi-exterior-end stone chimneys on each gable end of the house and a raised stone basement. The exterior walls were originally plastered and scored to resemble finished stone blocks and the roof was a very shallow-pitched gable. In the 1990s, the roof was raised slightly to a more standard pitch and reroofed in copper. The newly created gable ends, with lunette shaped vents, were clad in aluminum siding. The front of



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the house is dominated by a 2-story, full-height 3-bay portico with giant Tuscan columns, broad pilasters, and a modillioned cornice. A small balustrated balcony supported by consoles projects from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor under the portico. The front door has a 7-light transom, 3-light sidelights, and paneled reveals. The windows are 9/9- and 6/6- double-hung sash with plain trim. The house was constructed around 1855 by John Keen.

Barn: late 19<sup>th</sup> century; 2-story, frame (board-and-batten) bank barn on stone foundation with 2 hip-roofed cupolas with rectangular vents. To the rear is a shed-roofed corner crib on a stone foundation.

Silo: ca. 1910; terra-cotta tile silo with metal roof.

Shed: early 20th century; 4-bay, gable-roofed shed of pole construction clad in vertical wood siding.

Garage: early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century; 2-bay, gable-end (corrugated metal) garage with board-and-batten siding and rear and side shed-roofed wings.

Well house: modern; 1-story, 1-bay, gable-roofed (wood shingle) stuccoed well house with batten door (NC).

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Studio: 1970s; 1 ½-story frame studio with gable roof and shed-roofed dormer (NC)

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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

Unison is a village located in a rural area of southwest Loudoun County. Originally laid out in 1802, the community was officially established by the General Assembly in 1813. Like many small rural villages in Virginia, Unison served the local and surrounding agricultural area as a meeting, shopping, worshipping, education, and residential center. The primary building type however, has always been the dwelling. The town flourished in the second quarter of the nineteenth century and might have developed into a significant commercial hub had not the Civil War and its devastating economic impact arrested prosperity as it did many towns in the region. Its location at a rural crossroads, miles from major highways and railroad lines, served to stunt Unison's growth, but this same geographical location has preserved much of its mid-nineteenth-

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century character. Thirty years after the Civil War, Unison began a recovery that never quite achieved its earlier peak. After the turn of the century, the shift away from an agricultural economy to one based on more urban industrialization saw a steady decrease in the local population. Since the 1950s, Unison has served primarily as a residential center, although the United Methodist Church there is still active. It is one of the best-preserved rural villages in all of Loudoun County and has maintained much of its mid-nineteenth-century ambiance as a small rural crossroads. The Unison Historic District is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C because of its varied collection of early- to late-nineteenth-century buildings. The locally significant district possesses a high degree of integrity and its interesting history as a rural crossroads in southwestern Loudoun County further enhances its significance.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The village of Unison surrounds a dogleg crossroad in a rural area of southwest Loudoun County. In what was then Prince William County, the area was part of Thomas, Lord Fairfax's Northern Neck Proprietary. In 1741 Fairfax issued a grant to Major Richard Blackburn for 2,628 acres, identified on Blackburn's grant as one certain "Tract of waste and ungranted Land situate lying and being upon the Beaver Dam Branch of Goose Creek..."<sup>1</sup>

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It seems doubtful that Blackburn himself ever lived on the Beaver Dam grant. His primary residence was Rippon Lodge near Dumfries, a site named for his home in Yorkshire, England, and a name later given to the village in Jefferson County established by his descendants.

Business activities kept him in eastern Prince William and Fairfax counties. He is credited as being the architect of the earliest section of Mount Vernon and for building the first church at Falls Creek in Fairfax County, a structure that was later replaced but gave its name -- Falls Church -- to the community surrounding it.<sup>2</sup>

Living northeast of Blackburn's grant was Amos Janney, a Quaker surveyor who was just one of many Friends who settled in and around Waterford and vicinity; their sizable presence was reflected in the 1735 organization of a Waterford Meeting. Blackburn evidently had no qualms in renting portions of his grant land to Quakers and in 1746 members of what was to become the South Fork Meeting purchased land and built a meeting house. "The meeting house was 25 feet by 25 feet, on a lot of 10 acres, including the burial ground."<sup>3</sup> The structure was located just south of the historic district; the only visible evidence remaining today is the Quaker cemetery,

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surrounded by a stone wall. The industrious Quakers had firmly established the South Fork community while the area was still part of Prince William, but colonial politics and increased population led to the formation of Loudoun County from part of Prince William and Fairfax in 1757.

By the end of the Revolution the Quaker population had continued to grow and in 1785 the South Fork was “promoted” into being a preparatory meeting. That same year, a majority of the Blackburn tract was finally sold off by Richard’s heirs. Richard’s son Thomas Blackburn, who had represented Prince William County in the revolutionary Virginia Conventions of 1775 and as an aide to General Washington during the War, had inherited the grantlands.<sup>4</sup> Thomas and his wife Christian had two daughters, Sarah and Ann. Sarah married Nathaniel Crawford, and Ann married Bushrod Washington, nephew of General George Washington.

These three direct descendants of Richard Blackburn shared the remainder of the Blackburn grant, with Thomas owning a major portion and smaller portions belonging to each daughter and her husband. In 1785 Thomas sold a large tract of 2,328 acres to Spence Grayson, the purchase being identified in the deed as “a certain Tract and parcel of land [being]...the residue of a tract of Land granted to the late Richard Blackburn Esq. father of the said Thomas....”<sup>5</sup>

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During the late eighteenth century, hydrological and commercial changes in eastern Prince William had a direct impact on Loudoun County settlement patterns. By 1790, the town of Dumfries, once in close competition with New York and Philadelphia as a vital seaport, was in a state of rapid decline. Poor agricultural practices resulted in the silting of its port, and despite efforts to improve navigation in Quantico Creek, local landowners began buying land elsewhere as financial investments.<sup>6</sup>

The Grayson family was a neighbor of the Blackburns in Dumfries, where the Grayson patriarch Benjamin was a contemporary of Richard Blackburn. His son Spence Grayson became an Anglican minister who served as rector of Cameron Parish in Loudoun before the Revolutionary War. During the Revolution Spence was the minister in his brother William Grayson’s Continental Regiment. Unlike the Blackburns, members of the Grayson family remained in the area that would become southwest Loudoun County, although Spence Grayson himself was serving as rector of Dettingen Parish in Prince William shortly after his purchase. In 1787 Spence Grayson was appointed head of a committee reviewing ministers’ qualifications, acting under the auspices of the Anglican diocese, which, two years later, reorganized itself as the Protestant Episcopal Church.<sup>7</sup>

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In the same year the Anglican Grayson purchased land from Richard Blackburn's heirs, regular meetings of a Methodist church were being held in the area now known as Unison. Local tradition holds that the Old Bethesda Church was established five years after the Methodist Stone Chapel was erected in Leesburg, the latter being the first in Loudoun County. Nearby, the first Baptist church in the area was established in the vicinity of Bloomfield, providing a quorum of choices for worshipers in the area.

In 1802, Richard Blackburn's daughter Sarah and her husband Nathaniel Crawford, residents of Prince Georges County, Maryland, sold 120 acres of the original Blackburn grant to William Galliher.<sup>8</sup> Galliher and his wife Mary had a large family, which included at least ten children. It is believed they were early members of the Methodist Church and with other local families such as the Duncans, Taylors, and Plasters, founded Old Bethesda Church.<sup>9</sup>

By 1812, Galliher had commissioned a surveyor and lawyer named Seth Smith to lay out a plat of ten half-acre lots "in the Town or at the place called Greenville in Loudoun County."<sup>10</sup> The name Greenville, apparently, was not one chosen arbitrarily by Galliher, nor used only within his immediate family. Even a year before this event, Samuel Duncan, another Methodist who owned

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property adjacent to Galliher's, sold off an acre to Thornton Walker, the property described as being "situate lying and being at a place called Greenville in the County of Loudoun."<sup>11</sup>

While William and Mary Galliher evidently retained one lot for their own use, they distributed most of the remaining half-acre lots in Greenville to their children "in consideration of the love and affection" they bore for them. These gifts were recorded in a series of deeds dated the 18th of August, 1812 and documented which specific lot was given to whom.<sup>12</sup> Adjacent landowners Samuel "Dunkin," James Reed, and Isaac Brown's properties were mentioned, as was the Senior Galliher's "Butterlands" as boundaries when each lot was delineated.

The lots were distributed as follows: Thomas Galliher, Lot 1; Samuel Galliher's Lot was unnumbered in the deed, but by default it was either Lot 2 or Lot 10; Infant Son [indicating under the age of 21] Eli Galliher, Lot 3; Lot 4 was sold to Seth Smith who had laid out the town for the donor; Grandsons William McKenna and George McKenna, Lot 5; Anna Galliher, Lot 6; Caleb Galliher, Lot 7; William Galliher, junior, Lot 8; and John Galliher, Lot 9. Another child, Mary Galliher, who may have been born after this distribution, received a lot and an additional ten acres of land after her father's death, perhaps a part of the land her parents had lived on.<sup>13</sup>

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Seth Smith, erstwhile surveyor, lawyer, and owner of Lot 4, was selected as postmaster of Union in 1812.<sup>14</sup> The town's name had already been changed, yet the town itself flourished and soon achieved political recognition: the 1813 Acts of the Virginia Assembly publicly announced the founding of the town with its new name. "An Act establishing the Town of Union in the county of Loudoun" was passed January 5th, and Trustees William Bronaugh, Benjamin Grayson, William Harned and William H. Handy were appointed commissioners to lay off twenty acres of land "at the village called and known by the name of Union," into lots with convenient streets. These four trustees served as the first village architectural review board, having the power of setting regulations concerning the size of houses and chimneys. Proprietors of lots were required to build a twelve-foot-square dwelling house with a stone or brick chimney, standard regulations at the time, and once this had been accomplished, they were to enjoy the rights and privileges of freeholders and inhabitants of other towns not incorporated.<sup>15</sup>

Why the name Union? One speculation implied it was an intentional choice meant to express political approval of anti-Federalist politics, but in truth any official reason has yet to be discovered. More likely was a notion that "Union" was the perfect name for a community where Quakers, Methodists, Episcopalians, and Baptists lived in harmony and worshipped freely.

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Despite a change in name and the wardenship of four trustees who were not residents, the tiny town of Union was found to be still very much a product of Galliher determination. It was inhabited by eleven land taxpayers in 1816, all but two of whom had the last name of Galliher.

Eight of the town's lots were owned by Gallihers, one was owned by a Nancy Graves, and two additional lots were owned by John Mount. Two William Gallihers were identified, one owning a single lot and the other owning "4 acres at Union." The latter one was likely the Butterland-owning William Galliher Sr., whose death in 1815 resulted in the distribution of his remaining property to his heirs.<sup>16</sup>

Escalation of town development was obvious by 1820 when the total number of lots had increased to twenty-eight. That year marked the state introduction of building values, and land tax records show that newcomers had fairly outstripped the remaining Gallihers in putting up costly dwellings and outbuildings. One of these newcomers, Richard Weedon, had purchased John Mount's two lots, plus a third, and owned property valued at \$2600. Thornton Walker was close behind, owning two lots with a total value of \$2300 -- \$1,800 of which was for the added buildings. Walker's household that year was one of the largest in Union, comprised of ten whites, two slaves and two free blacks. William Dorsey and George Janney each owned one lot but the buildings thereon were valued at \$1400; the lots themselves added only \$100 to the

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property values. Only four Galliheres remained in Union; William Galliher Jr. had sold or rented his lot and had moved outside of town. The only original neighbor to be included in the town expansion was Samuel Dunkin, whose one lot was worth \$700, including the \$600 building on it.<sup>17</sup>

By 1822, the town boundaries had expanded to include a one-acre lot owned by original neighbor Isaac Brown. Brown sold the lot that year to Mahlon Baldwin who had bought into Union's future just a few years earlier.<sup>18</sup>

From her father's estate Mary Galliher received 10 acres of land, an interest in the property her mother Mary Galliher held by right of dower, and a lot of one-half acre in Unison. Much of her inheritance she deeded over to her brother Eli, including personal property: one bed, one bureau, and all her household and kitchen furniture.<sup>19</sup> Mary sold her half-acre lot in Union to Joseph A. Lloyd, in 1824, and probably continued to live in her mother's household.<sup>20</sup>

The town underwent a third name change in 1829. Another "Union, Virginia" in Monroe  
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County, southwestern Virginia, had adopted that name a few years earlier than did Loudoun's Union, and its longer existence gave it precedence when the postal system insisted there be only one town in Virginia named Union. The Loudoun village added a single "s" - perhaps in honor of outgoing postmaster Seth Smith -- and chose the name Unison; newly appointed postmaster, Thornton Walker, effected the transition. A local resident since 1811, Walker was shown in 1830 to be the head of a household of five persons and owned the second most valuable property in town, subordinate in value only to the members of the Weedon family who had combined their fortune into a single town lot.<sup>21</sup>

Federal Census records in 1830 show Unison had at least five homes in which free negroes were the heads of household. These were identified as Lany Taylor, probably a single mother between 24 and 36 and her two girls and a boy under the age of ten; Ann Thornton, who shared her house with another free black female, and four boys under the age of ten. Elijah Mason, who lived with two young women and a young man who were probably his own grown children; Spencer Perry and his wife, who lived with one daughter and two sons; and Peter Ball and his wife who shared their home with two grown daughters. None of these free negroes was recorded as owning lots in Unison although their free status would have made that possible if their finances had allowed it.

Joseph Martin's 1835 *New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia* described "Union" at a

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time that would later be revealed as its zenith:

It contains 25 dwelling houses, 3 houses of public worship, 1 of which belongs to the Methodist denomination, and the other 2 are free for all; 1 common school, 2 mercantile stores, 1 tavern, a carding machine worked by horse power, and to which there is also attached a pair of burr stones. There are 1 temperance society and various mechanical pursuits. The situation is healthy, in a thickly settled neighbourhood, 16 ms. from Leesburg, and equidistant from Middleburg, Upperville and Snickersville. Population 135 persons; of whom 1 is an attorney, and 3 are regular physicians.<sup>22</sup>

Individual and family names that would continue with Unison's history into the twentieth century appeared in the village's land tax and population records during the 1830s and 1840s. Theodorick Leith, who had become postmaster temporarily in 1831 and again in 1835, owned a single lot.

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Henry Plaster Sr.'s household consisted of three elderly people and he owned three lots in town. His son Henry Jr. headed a household of eight and he also owned three lots by 1842. According to land tax records for 1842 George Keen owned two lots, purchased of Mahlon Baldwin's heirs the year before, while Baldwin's heirs still owned one remaining lot in town. Patrick Milhollin lived in Fauquier and possibly rented out the building valued at \$250 on his one lot. Original lot owner Seth Smith was shown in 1830 to have eight persons in his household, and had increased his holdings to two lots; Thomas Galleher was the only remaining taxpayer carrying the original town founder's name.<sup>23</sup>

Yardley Taylor, local mapmaker and gazetteer, compiled a map in 1853 that identified towns, villages and landowners across Loudoun County. The town of "Union" -- still bearing its former name -- was shown to have thirteen buildings including an "MMH" or Methodist Meeting House, and farther to the southwest the "Friends MH."<sup>24</sup> Union, according to Taylor, was more densely populated than the nearby villages of Bloomfield, Pothouse, Millville or Philomont; of the small communities in southwest Loudoun County at that time, only Middleburg was shown to be larger.

The Gazetteer portion of Taylor's 1853 work described Union as being virtually the same that

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Joseph Martin described in his 1835 Gazetteer, suggesting that Taylor's most significant contribution was the map as it visually updated what Martin specified nearly 20 years earlier.<sup>25</sup> Taylor identified three specific properties in "Union," with the names of those living there: the properties of "T. Leith," "H. Plaster," and "J. Keene." All three of these properties are contributing resources within the proposed Unison Historic District.

The 1850 Census and Land Tax records had shown Theodoric Leith as a 44-year-old physician with a wife (nee Plaster) and four children ranging in age from two to nine. The real estate he owned was valued at \$4,500, a substantial amount in the village. The farmer Henry Plaster (Jr.) at 55 was head of a household that included his wife Fanny and three sons, one of them listed as being a farmer, one a physician; the third was just 14.<sup>26</sup> Henry Plaster Sr., then 90, also lived in the house, as did Susan Hoge, 22 and George Hoge 4. Edmund Thompson, a 26-year old black laborer, also lived under the Plaster roof. Henry Jr.'s property was valued at \$8,000, clear indication of the value agricultural land held in the mid-nineteenth century.

Thirty-four-year-old John Keen farmed 100 acres valued at \$3000 when the 1850 census was recorded. He lived with his 25-year-old wife Amanda and their four children, Mary (9), George

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(8), Martha (6) and Samuel (2). Also in the house were Betsy Richmond, a black woman of 30 and her two children Isabel (3), and Jenny (3 months). Living nearby was patriarch George Keen, whose 900-acre farm was valued at \$28,000. Three years later the younger Keen would begin building Bonnycastle, the western-most structure in the proposed historic district.

Taylor's map included the names of subscribers, but tax and census records provide information on others in the area who were not identified by Taylor. Among these was James Macklin, a saddler who lived with his wife Hannah, daughter Susan and son David, also a saddler. Seth

Smith, lawyer, was by then 63, having lived in the village for more than forty years. He shared his home with wife Mary, three daughters, and a 27-year-old son named James who was a carpenter. A shoemaker name Marcus Sinclair lived in the vicinity but did not own his own property; neither did another local carpenter, Alfred Newlin.

Free Blacks were also in Unison, many of them identified in the census records as laborers. One of these, John Perry, was possibly one of the sons shown living with Spencer Perry in 1830. John was recorded as a 38-year-old mulatto living with his black wife Ann, three young daughters and a son. He did not own the property he lived on and his census listing just preceded that of wealthy farmer George Keen who may have employed him.



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On the eve of the Civil War, Unison had 24 lots, owned by just seventeen taxpayers. The village was then, as it is now, a doglegged crossroads in an agricultural area, and any action it saw during the War occurred simply by virtue or fault of its location on the road between two significant turnpikes: Snickers Gap to the north and Ashby's Gap to the south. Imagine the town's relief finally in being "Unison" as Federal troops routinely marched through the area. But Yardley Taylor was still identifying it as Union as recently as 1853, and in fact, troop commanders from both sides routinely called the town "Union" in official communications and reports.

The most noteworthy action to occur in the Unison vicinity was a skirmish on November 2-3, 1862. In mid-September, McClellan's Army had barely defeated Lee's troops in Sharpsburg, Maryland. The battle of Antietam, known for the creek that passed nearby, resulted in huge losses of men for both the Union and Confederate sides as more than 22,700 men were killed, wounded or missing. While McClellan was successful in stopping Lee's intent of attacking railroad lines in Harrisburg, Pa., he failed to finish him off, and Lee and his remaining troops

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were able to cross the Potomac into the Valley and safety. Not until President Lincoln commanded McClellan to go after Lee did he begin to move, and then nearly three weeks later.<sup>27</sup>

The skirmish that occurred near Union in early November 1862, was part of that movement into Virginia to overtake Lee. As one of the major routes into the Valley, Snicker's Gap in northwest Loudoun County was an obvious target to gain for the Federals, and for the Confederates, to defend. Involved in the action were Federal forces commanded by Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside, whose troops had seen action at Antietam. Forces under Burnside and Pleasanton occupied Union, Bloomfield and Philomont and began the push to take the gaps into the Shenandoah Valley.<sup>28</sup>

The skirmish that earned Union mention in the Official Records began the afternoon of November 2nd and was described for President Lincoln by McClellan's Chief of Staff.

Headquarters Army of the Potomac  
Wheatland, November 2, 1862 - 10 p.m. (Received  
November 3, 12.45 a.m.)

His Excellency the President:

I have just received a dispatch from General McClellan, dated at

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Snicker's Gap, 6 p.m., stating that he has full possession of the gap. When Hancock arrived there it was held by the enemy's cavalry, who were at once driven out. A column of from 5,000 to 6,000 infantry advanced to retake it, but were dispersed by the fire of our rifled guns. The position is a strong one from either side. It is said that Jackson and A.P. Hill are in the valley opposite. Pleasonton had driven the enemy's cavalry several miles beyond Union at 3 p.m., exploding one of their caissons and capturing 10 of their wounded, left behind.

R.B. Marcy  
Chief of Staff<sup>29</sup>

The reflections of the wounded were the only permanent evidence of the skirmish of early November, 1862. Like many churches in the area, Unison's sanctuary served as a hospital following the skirmish. Names, salutations, and general commentary by the wounded were  
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carved into the interior walls of the Methodist Episcopal Church during their confinement. Included among these was a poem, uncovered during a renovation that included paint removal in 1953, and subsequently painted over again 25 years later. Ellsworth Parker of Co. H, of the 21st Regiment wrote on November 7th, 1862:

In some lone hour of bliss,  
When sorrows are forgot,  
Then cast a happy glance at this  
And read forget me not.<sup>30</sup>

After the Civil War, Unison saw little physical change. Land Tax records reflected few revisions in lot ownership, and because there was little new construction during that time, property values in the hamlet remained all but unchanged between 1860 and 1870. A turnaround occurred in the last quarter of the 19th century, however, when developmental growth in the village of Unison saw public structures being erected that expanded the hamlet as a destination for not only religious activity but for education and commerce as well. Unison was again becoming a locally significant social center, yet it was never to reach the size nor importance it achieved in the 1830s.

In 1876 Henry and Fanny Plaster sold a small parcel of land in the Village of Unison to School District No. 3. The \$15 sale was recorded on December 6th, and described the land as being "on

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the South west corner of the Methodist Episcopal Church South lot..." The lot's size and intended function were recorded as well, "containing 3/20 of an acre of land more or less on which there is to be built a new school house for the purpose of a school for public instruction according to law."<sup>31</sup>

Plaster's sale was not only an indication of faith in the return of economic stability, it was an investment in the future of his community. The school was evidently built within the following six months, and required more land than offered by Plaster. Charles, Squire, and Lucy E. Robinson sold a half acre of land on the east end of their five-acre lot to School District No. 3 in April of the next year. The details surrounding the sale are not included in the deed, but the Robinson land was key to the School District's ownership, as it was described being land "on which there is a new School house for public instruction." Architectural evidence suggests this original school was either greatly remodeled or rebuilt sometime around 1890. The building served as the Unison school until it closed in 1917 and was converted into a private residence.

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Unison as a burgeoning economic center must have certainly been the hope of Thomas Baker and Lycurgeus E. Hutchison who were both operating stores in the town by 1880. Baker's store was located on the Unison Road, attached on its west side to the Henry Evans house. Hutchison's store was more advantageously situated at the junction of the Unison and Bloomfield Roads. The town's survival over time gave it an air of distinction even when described in Hardesty's *Historical and Geographical Encyclopaedia of Loudoun County* in 1883, "Unison is an old hamlet [...which] contains two stores, one Methodist and one Quaker church and a school house. It was first settled many years ago." This reference to the age of the village is one of few such included in his county reference work.<sup>32</sup>

Although the Quaker meeting house was still noted as being active in Unison in 1883, it was soon to fall on hard times. Its members were reported to display a fondness for cockfighting and horseracing and allusions to their lax moral behavior were reflected in their enjoyment of gambling, drinking, and fighting. This bad moral reputation resulted in the termination of the South Fork Meeting. The meeting house was allowed to fall into disrepair and eventually disappear altogether, with only the cemetery remaining as testimony to its past.<sup>33</sup>

Not mentioned in Hardesty's *Encyclopaedia* entry for Unison, but very much in operation by 1883, was the South Fork Grange which met the first Saturday of every month in "Union," according to a local newspaper, *The Loudoun Telephone*. Local Negroes were also active in seeking civil rights. The same paper carried a petition presented to a local Judge of the Loudoun Court by Negro Delegates who had met at a "Colored Mass Meeting" in May, 1883. Their

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request was for “the equal rights before the law...[of] having the privileges of serving as jurors and Judges of elections.” Two of the signatory Delegates were identified from Union, [F]ielding Green, a Vice President of the Delegation, and William Moland.<sup>34</sup>

Chataigne’s 1893-94 *Virginia Gazetteer and Classified Business Directory* showed Unison provided for most of the needs of the local agricultural community and visiting outsiders as well. Madison Monroe sold Agricultural Implements and William Tavenner was the local Carpenter and Builder, supported probably by James Dishman’s saw and planing mill. Henry Saffel built coaches and wagons, while Charles Osbourne and Frank Taylor crafted saddles and harnesses. Baker, Milhollen and Hoge offered general merchandise; Hoge also served the community as physician. Two hotels were situated in Unison, run by Gibson Owen and J. W. Longear; Texanna Kercheval was postmistress.<sup>35</sup>

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As with the rest of Loudoun County, fox hunting in the Unison area is a popular recreational sport. The Unison Farmer’s Hunt was founded in the Unison Store at the turn of the century and eventually became the Piedmont Hunt Club.<sup>36</sup> During the early twentieth century, Unison was well known for its famous Osbourne Saddlery, which was operated by Charlie Osbourne, the town’s postmaster at the time. His English-style hunting saddles were so expertly crafted that Osbourne was even filling overseas orders.<sup>37</sup>

In 1908 James W. Head published *History and Comprehensive Description of Loudoun County Virginia*. In addition to social, agricultural, climactic statistics and historical data, Head included a brief description of towns and villages. According to Head, the village of Unison, with a population of 100, was somewhat larger than many villages and it enjoyed the services of three merchants and mechanics. Compared to its heyday in the 1830s, however, Unison had declined in population and economic activity.<sup>38</sup>

“Unison to Have Big High School” read the April 19, 1915 headline in the *Loudoun-Mirror*. The school was to be built on a corner of H. L. Keen’s farm at the intersection of the Bloomfield, Unison and Trap Roads, northwest of the village proper and outside of the historic district boundaries. That the school would serve a larger community was indicative of both “modern” forms of education and the fact that Unison’s population no longer warranted a school of its own.<sup>39</sup>

The growth of city centers and urban industrialization began to attract farm workers in the first quarter of the twentieth century, a trend that only escalated after WWI. Although the area could

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no longer be considered “thickly populated,” the village and area surrounding Unison enjoyed a weekly social column in the *Loudoun Times-Mirror*. Greater media focus was given Unison in 1937 when storekeeper Henry Saffel -- one of the merchants mentioned in the 1893 Directory -- was murdered during a daytime robbery.

Saffel’s heirs continued operation of his store, and it served as the village’s central meeting place and community focal point, where taxes were paid, groceries purchased, often on a line of credit, and gas pumped. The post office was housed in the small building directly across from the store [Uncle Tom’s Cabin], and another very small grocery store two doors up the road was operated by Miss Nellie Saunders, a seamstress. Community cohesion was reinforced by ice cream socials held at the Methodist Church, and during WWII, children who attended the Bloomfield-Union School, which by then offered classes through the 7th grade, organized and tended a Victory

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Garden in the field across the road from the school building. When the school burned in the mid-1940s and after interim classes were held in the Methodist Church buildings, students from the area were bussed to other schools.<sup>40</sup>

Even after WWII, large farms in the area employed people in and around Unison, but gradually many people used farming as a supplement to a job outside the community. The village identity and cohesion continued to be centered in activities at the Methodist Church, the store, and on the baseball diamond, where Unison’s young men challenged other Loudoun County teams; the playing field is still located northwest of the Bloomfield-Unison road junction.

By the 1950s, Unison was still a quiet rural crossroads village and agriculture was still an important economic factor for the surrounding area, but larger farms and mechanized utilities meant fewer jobs for farm laborers. More and more of Unison’s citizenry would find employment in non-agricultural pursuits, and the notion of commuting to jobs in Northern Virginia or Washington DC became not only feasible, but lucrative. Since then the village’s quaint charm and pastoral setting has attracted artists and writers.

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ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Northern Neck Grants E, 1736-42, p. 134

<sup>2</sup> *Prince William: The Story of Its People and Its Places*, Originally completed in 1941 by workers of the Writer’s Program of the WPA in the State of Virginia. Reprinted 1988:p. 84-85

<sup>3</sup> *The Bulletin of the Historical Society of Loudoun County, Virginia* 1957-1976. Leesburg: Goose Creek

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Production, 1998:18; William Wade Hinshaw, *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, Ann Arbor, MI: Edward Brothers Inc. 1950: 610.

<sup>4</sup> Thomas Blackburn was further distinguished in 1799 when he was chosen as Chief Mourner leading the procession to the grave during Washington's funeral. *Prince William, The Story of its People and its Places*, 84-85.

<sup>5</sup> LoCoDB P:323.

<sup>6</sup> Prince William, *The Story*, p. 90.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, p. 83.

<sup>8</sup> LoCoDB 2C:187.

<sup>9</sup> Rev. J. L Kibler, Loudoun Circuit -- Unison. n.d.:p2-3. The original Old Bethesda Church was located several hundred yards east of the site of the present Methodist Church. Remains of the early graveyard can still be seen.

<sup>10</sup> LoCoDB 2P:174.

<sup>11</sup> LoCoDB 2P:173.

<sup>12</sup> LoCoDB 2P 173-182.

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<sup>13</sup> LoCoDB 3H:43; LoCoDB 3K:80.

<sup>14</sup> *Post Offices In Loudoun County*. Folder in vertical file; Thomas Balch Library; Leesburg, VA.

<sup>15</sup> Acts of the Virginia Assembly, 1812-1813, chapter 69, p. 98.

<sup>16</sup> Loudoun County Land Tax Records, 1816.

<sup>17</sup> Loudoun County Land Tax Records, 1820.

<sup>18</sup> LoCoDB 3E:400.

<sup>19</sup> LoCoDB 3H:43.

<sup>20</sup> LoCoDB 3K:80.

<sup>21</sup> *Post Offices In Loudoun County*; Loudoun County Land Tax Records, 1830. The "Weidons" by this time had sold off two of their lots.

<sup>22</sup> Joseph Martin, *A New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia*. [1835] Westminster, MD: Willow Bend Books, 2000: p. 215-216.

<sup>23</sup> *Post Offices In Loudoun County*; Loudoun County Land Tax Records, 1832, 1842.

<sup>24</sup> Since Taylor was himself a Quaker but was probably a member of the Waterford meeting, one of only three meetings in the County. The Methodist meeting house was one of twelve Methodist churches in the County by mid-century, by far the denomination with the most churches and followers in Loudoun at that time, according to the *Social Statistics of the County of Loudoun State of Virginia for the year ending June 1, 1850*.

<sup>25</sup> Jim Presgraves, editor. *Loudoun County Virginia Families and History*, "Yardley Taylor. Memoir of Loudoun County, 1853" 1999: p. 215-216.

<sup>26</sup> Rev. J.L. Kipler remarked on the number of Methodists who had lived long lives before being buried in the Old Bethesda cemetery. One of these was Henry Plaster Jr.'s wife Fanny, described by Kipler, "But perhaps the oldest person buried here was Sister Fanny Plaster who died in 1892 in her 101st year. Her age and her life were so remarkable that I may be excused if I extend this notice." Kipler's reference to Fanny's age can certainly be excused, but perhaps should be adjusted. The 1850 population census identified Fanny as 54, which would have made her only 96 when she died. Throughout her life, Fanny Plaster had been a faithful member of the Methodist Church, and her pastor J.C. Dice acknowledged that she had known the Church through "every Bishop from Asbury to Key." Kibler, Loudoun Circuit -- Unison, p. 4.

<sup>27</sup> Geoffrey C. Ward, *The Civil War*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990: p. 150-168.

<sup>28</sup> Scott, Lt. Col. Robert N. and Lt. Col. Henry M. Lazelle. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1887. [hereinafter: OAR] Series I Vol. XIX, Part II: p. 526-527.

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<sup>29</sup> OAR Series I Vol. XIX, Part II: 532.

<sup>30</sup> "Inscriptions Printed and Framed in Memory of James L. Brown by his wife, Inez, and grandchildren." courtesy of Anna Beavers, Unison, Virginia.

<sup>31</sup> LoCoDB6N:146.

<sup>32</sup> Henry Hardesty, *Historical and Geographical Encyclopaedia*, 1883 p. 60.

<sup>33</sup> *The Bulletin of the Historical Society of Loudoun County, Virginia* 1957-1976. Leesburg: Goose Creek Production, 1998:19.

<sup>34</sup> *The Loudoun Telephone*, March 31, 1882; May 18, 1883.

<sup>35</sup> *Chataigne's 1893-94 Virginia Gazetteer and Classified Business Directory*. Richmond,: J. H. Chataigne, 1894.

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<sup>36</sup> Personal conversation between Maral S. Kalbian and Anna Beavers, July 16, 2002.

<sup>37</sup> Charles S. Monroe, *Unison Farmer's Hunt*, n.d.

<sup>38</sup> James W. Head, *History and Comprehensive Description of Loudoun County, Virginia*. Park View Press, 1908: 78-79.

<sup>39</sup> *Loudoun Times Mirror*, April 19, 1915; *The Bulletin of the Historical Society of Loudoun County*: 91.

<sup>40</sup> Telephone Interview, Leila Boyer and June Craun, step-granddaughter of Henry Saffel, July 5, 2002.

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**UTM REFERENCES**

A	18 257616E 4324059N
B	18 257779E 4324186N
C	18 258789E 4324654N
D	18 258927E 4324217N
E	18 258068E 4323943N
F	18 257855E 4323927N

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

The boundaries of the nominated Unison Historic District are delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points: A, 18 257616E 4324059N; B, 18 257779E 4324186N; C, 18 258789E 4324654N; D, 18 258927E 4324217N; E, 18 258068E 4323943N; and F 18 257855E 4323927N.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

The Unison Historic District boundaries were drawn to include the largest concentration of historic buildings in the village of Unison, along Unison Road and part of Bloomfield Road. Concentrations of noncontributing buildings and more rural areas were excluded where possible.

NPS Form 10-900-a

(8-86)

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION**

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are of:

**UNISON HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Location: Unison, Virginia (Loudoun County)

VDHR File Number: 53-692

Date of photograph: December 2001

Photographer: Maral S. Kalbian

All negatives are stored at the Department of Historic Resources Archives unless noted otherwise.

SUBJECT: Butterland (53-692-15)

VIEW: North view

NEG. NO.: 19710

PHOTO 1 of 25

SUBJECT: Historic view of Butterland (53-692-15)

VIEW: North view

NEG. NO.: 19711

PHOTO 2 of 25

SUBJECT: Elton (53-692-17)

VIEW: SW view

NEG. NO.: 19712

PHOTO 3 of 25

SUBJECT: Walker, Thornton House (53-692-18)

VIEW: SE view

NEG. NO.: 19711

PHOTO 4 of 25

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**Unison Historic District  
Loudoun County, Virginia**

SUBJECT: Phillips, Mary A. House (53-692-4)  
VIEW: SE view  
NEG. NO.: 19709  
PHOTO 5 of 25

SUBJECT: Phillips, Mary A. House (53-692-4)  
VIEW: detail, interior trim  
NEG. NO.: 19709  
PHOTO 6 of 25

SUBJECT: Phillips, Mary A. House (53-692-4)  
VIEW: SE view, blacksmith shop  
NEG. NO.: 19709  
PHOTO 7 of 25

SUBJECT: Evans, Henry House (53-692-5)  
VIEW: SE view  
NEG. NO.: 19709  
PHOTO 8 of 25

SUBJECT: CA. 1900 view of Evans, Henry House (53-692-5) and old Baker Store  
VIEW: SE view  
PHOTOGRAPHER: Unknown  
NEGATIVE: Thomas Balch Library in Leesburg, VA  
PHOTO 9 of 25

SUBJECT: Glatton Folly (53-692-2)  
VIEW: SE view  
NEG. NO.: 19709  
PHOTO 10 of 25

SUBJECT: House, 21097 Unison Road (53-692-3)  
VIEW: SW view  
NEG. NO.: 19709  
PHOTO 11 of 25

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**Unison Historic District  
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SUBJECT: Unison United Methodist Church (53-692-7)  
VIEW: NE view  
NEG. NO.: 19710  
PHOTO 12 of 25

SUBJECT: Shackelford, Mildred House (53-692-14)  
VIEW: North view  
NEG. NO.: 19710  
PHOTO 13 of 25

SUBJECT: Bonnycastle (53-692-10)  
VIEW: SE view  
NEG. NO.: 19712  
PHOTO 14 of 25

SUBJECT: Barns at Bonnycastle (53-692-10)  
VIEW: SW view  
NEG. NO.: 19712  
PHOTO 15 of 25

SUBJECT: Ballenger House (53-692-16)  
VIEW: NW view  
NEG. NO.: 19711  
PHOTO 16 of 25

SUBJECT: Meat house at Ballenger House (53-692-16)  
VIEW: SW view  
NEG. NO.: 19711  
PHOTO 17 of 25

SUBJECT: Barns at Ballenger House (53-692-16)  
VIEW: NW view  
NEG. NO.: 19711  
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**Section \_\_\_ Photo \_\_\_ Page \_\_41\_\_**

SUBJECT: House, 21131 Unison Road (53-692-6)

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**Unison Historic District  
Loudoun County, Virginia**

VIEW: SW view  
NEG. NO.: 19709  
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SUBJECT: Summergreen Farm (53-692-9)  
VIEW: NW view  
NEG. NO.: 19710  
PHOTO 20 of 25

SUBJECT: Unison General Store (53-692-20)  
VIEW: SE view  
NEG. NO.: 19710  
PHOTO 21 of 25

SUBJECT: House, 21070 Unison Road (53-692-13)  
VIEW: NW view  
NEG. NO.: 19710  
PHOTO 22 of 25

SUBJECT: House, 35121 Bloomfield Road (53-692-1)  
VIEW: SE view  
NEG. NO.: 19709  
PHOTO 23 of 25

SUBJECT: View of Hunt in Unison  
PHOTOGRAPHER: Winslow Williams; January 4, 1955  
VIEW: Looking northwest along Unison Road  
NEGATIVE: Thomas Balch Library in Leesburg, VA  
PHOTO 24 of 25

SUBJECT: Streetscape in Unison from west end of Unison Road looking east  
VIEW: Looking East  
NEG. NO.: 19710  
PHOTO 25 of 25

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